(ii) Government has rationalized value addition/Input-output norms specified under the Exim Policy extended to exporters, the facility of duty free import of raw material under the Advance Licensing Scheme, import of capital goods at concessional rate of duty for export products.

(iii) For Technological up-gradation of the industry loan at 5% point less than applicable rate, under the Technological Up-gradation Fund Scheme for the Textiles sector is available *inter-alia* to the silk sector.

(iv) Govt. have initiated a production programme of high quality of bivoltine silk to improve quality of Indian silk and its productivity & cost competitiveness.

(v) Import of raw silk has been liberalized by being brought under OGL, which has increased availability of good quality silk.

High negative growth shown by export-oriented units

1892. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that export-oriented units in textile sector have posted high negative growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to assist these units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The

details of productions of spun yarn and fabric from export-oriented units in cotton/man-made fibre textile mills (Non-SSI) during the last three years and current year April — December are give below:

Period	Production of Spun yarn (Mn.kg.)	Production of Fabric (Mn. sq.mtr.)
1998-99	299	85
1999-00	349	111
2000-01	366	117
April — December		
2001-02	261	84
2000-01	275	89

The production of spun yarn & fabric by 100% EOU's has shown Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10.6% and 17.3% respectively during the last three years. The production of spun yarn & fabric has however, declined by about 5% during April—December 2001 due to recessionery trend in the domestic and international market.

(c) The Government has taken various steps for time to time to increase exports and thus improve the functioning of export-oriented units. Some of the important measures are:

(i) The Governemnt has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector.

(ii) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been earmarked in the R.E. 2001-02 for creating clusters of excellence, *i.e.* apparel parks for production and export of garments. Besides, a provision of Rs. 10 crores has also been made in R.E. 2001-02 for scheme for improvement of infrastructure facilities at major textile production centres.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in internaitonal trade Inter-Ministerial Committee to resolve the issues pertaining to assistance under TUFS has been constituted.

(iv) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, has been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%.

(v) Technology Mission for Cotton has been launched for initiating focussed steps for boosting production, productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) The import of a large number of garment machinery has been allowed under concessional custom duty of 5%.

(viii) Allowing foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

(ix) A special package of incentives for the textile sector has been announced in the Budget 2002-03.

Enhancing the coverage of TWRS

1893. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to enhance the coverage of Textile Workers' Rehabilitation scheme (TWRS);

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith number of textile workers likely to be benefited from the scheme; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to resolve other long pending demands of textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Government has decided to enhance the eligible wage ceiling from Rs. 2500/- per month to Rs. 3500/- per month under the Textile